

**Amendments to the Claims:**

*This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:*

1. (Original) An opened book holding device to permit an opened book to be held open at a selected pair of adjacent pages, said device including:

a base;

a lip extending upwardly from said base and dimensioned to abut with a lower edge of said book;

at least one cover support mounted on said base and dimensioned to support a corresponding outer cover of said book; and

biasing means to resiliently bias the or each said cover support towards said lip;

wherein said lip and said cover support(s) are dimensioned to resiliently clamp said opened book therebetween.

2. (Original) A device according to claim 1 including a pair of said cover supports each of which is independently resiliently biased.

3. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~ wherein said cover support(s) are adjustably mounted on said base to alter the degree of inclination thereof relative to said base.

4. (Original) A device according to claim 3 wherein said cover support(s) are selectively inclinable relative to said base into any one of a plurality of pre-selected positions.

5. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 3 ~~or 4~~ wherein said cover support(s) are hingedly mounted to said base.

6. (Currently Amended) A device according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1 wherein said cover support(s) are formed as a cantilever which constitutes said biasing means.

7. (Cancelled).

8. (Original) A method of holding open a selected pair of adjacent pages of a book having a front cover, a back cover, and a plurality of pages, said method including the steps of:

- (i) opening said book at said selected pair of adjacent pages;
- (ii) placing said front cover and said back cover on a cover support means; and
- (iii) resiliently urging said cover support means towards a lip to abut said book with said lip to thereby clamp said book between said lip and said cover support means.

9. (Original) A method according to claim 8 including the step of adjustably mounting said cover supports to a base such that said cover supports inclination angle can be altered.

10. (Cancelled).

11. (New) A device according to claim 2 wherein said cover support(s) are adjustably mounted on said base to alter the degree of inclination thereof relative to said base.

12. (New) A device according to claim 11 wherein said cover support(s) are selectively inclinable relative to said base into any one of a plurality of pre-selected positions.

13. (New) A device according to claim 12 wherein said cover support(s) are hingedly mounted to said base.

14. (New) A device according to claim 11 wherein said cover support(s) are formed as a cantilever which constitutes said biasing means.

15. (New) A device according to claim 2 wherein said cover support(s) are formed as a cantilever which constitutes said biasing means.

16. (New) A device according to claim 3 wherein said cover support(s) are formed as a cantilever which constitutes said biasing means.

17. (New) A device according to claim 4 wherein said cover support(s) are formed as a cantilever which constitutes said biasing means.

18. (New) A device according to claim 5 wherein said cover support(s) are formed as a cantilever which constitutes said biasing means.